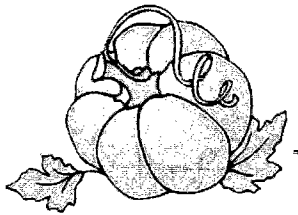




Visit us on the Web at
www.b-g-a.org



Off Track Pets

News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption
Established 1991

Fall 2015
In This Issue:
**BGA Meet & Greets are Greyt! ... Meat Raffle
Date Set ... Garage Sale is a Success**

From the President:
Faster Than a Speeding Bullet

You're probably thinking I'm talking about one of our greys, huh? Well, you're wrong, because like our dogs, this summer is just flying by. It seems like we've had some BGA event every weekend so far, between the events at parks around the area, or the farmer's markets, and our normal Meet & Greets. It's been a regular whirlwind. Our summers here in Western New York are pretty great, and because the winters are not conducive to outdoor activities, every festival, picnic or outdoor event gets crammed into every weekend between May and September.

As much as we tried to spread some of our events around, outside forces made us have to change some things around. Case in point is our annual BGA Greyhound Fair and Expo. It was originally scheduled in March, but due to the impending sale of the hall where it was going to be held, we had to cancel it. Our apologies to the vendors who were planning on being there for our event. We tried to reschedule for later in the summer or early fall, but we couldn't find a date that didn't conflict with another event, plus give our vendors enough time to recharge and restock. We thought of combining a couple events, but that just wasn't practical. So, we're back to having our BGA Expo in the spring of

2016. Stay tuned here or check our social media outlets for the date and time.

In the meantime, we continued our usual summer events. The every-month-or-so dog walks have been a lot of fun and very successful. We started these walks last November, on a cold but sunny day at Delaware Park. Starting up again in the spring and summer, we've met and walked at Canalside, Burchfield Park in West Seneca, and Amherst State Park.



*BGA President
Mike Maciejewski*

We're looking to spread these walks around the area, so if you have any suggestions, please let us know. There are some great places to walk our hounds, and we look forward to finding places to go, especially as we get closer to autumn. Seeing a group of greyhounds (which is called a "leash" if you didn't know) always raises eyebrows, and usually brings out a lot of questions and comments. We never get tired of hearing, "They're so beautiful," or "I can't believe how soft they feel," or "Are they always this calm?" Yes, yes, and yes.

(cont'd on p. 5)

It was also

BGA Meet & Greets are "Greyt!"

By Eileen Stevic, BGA Events Co-Chair

So, how did you first come to know about greyhound adoption?

If you're like most of us, it was by encountering the hounds themselves at a community Meet & Greet event. What better way to reach potential adopters than to show them firsthand the personality and gentility of this awesome breed?

This summer, BGA has been present at many community events, to help get the word out about greyhound adoption. Farmers markets in Williamsville and Clarence, Town Days and the Art Show at Cheek-towaga Town Park, and Bark in the Park at Clarence Town Park are just a few of the events that have featured our BGA "ambassa-dogs." We also had a "greyt" turnout for the Dog Walk at Burchfield Park in West Seneca – the sight of a dozen or more hounds and their "people" strolling through the park was certainly something to see!

One of our final events of the summer was BGA's 24th annual appearance at the Erie County Fair. From August 12 through 23, we had the chance to let fair crowds interact with our hounds, and on a personal note, it was so satisfying for my husband Rob and me to watch the reactions of people as they greeted our own grey.

Last summer, we considered bringing our recent adoptee,

Eddie, to the fair. We had only gotten him in June, but we were truly hoping he could be a "greyt" representative of his breed. We were encouraged by the fact that, unlike our previous hound, Jesse, he did not attempt to jump up on visitors to the house, and he did not jump or flinch if we petted him or snuggled with him when he was lying down. We took him for many walks in the neighborhood and cautiously watched as he interacted with passersby. He seemed to really enjoy greeting new people and appeared very comfortable as young children approached and greeted him.

So, we were very excited to take him to the fair – and he did "greyt!" It was wonderful to see him interact with fairgoers, and even more gratifying to see the smiles on the faces of adults and children who loved petting and taking to Eddie and the other hounds. We were hooked on BGA Meet & Greets!

We took him to a few more Meet & Greets at Walden Galleria and it was even more heart-warming to see the reactions of the shoppers as they approached the BGA table. Everyone smiled when they encountered the hounds, wanting to touch and pet and talk to them. It is a wonderful experience, and we recommend it for anyone who thinks their hound would be a good "ambassa-dog" for BGA!

We wel- *(cont'd on p. 5)*

BGA Board of Directors

Mike Maciejewski
President
mrmski@msn.com
716-517-5588

Debbie Doxey
Immediate Past President
Debdoxey@verizon.net
716-836-3426

Christine Cotton
Vice President
cgcotton@yahoo.com
716-827-8347

Laurie Graziano
Treasurer
grazialm@buffalostate.edu
716-636-0971

Glory Kluck
Secretary
gloryrose18@juno.com
716-656-5015

Sue Murzynski
Adoptions
suehappytails@aol.com
716-655-0819

Carolyn Pillard
Fund Raising
lpillard@roadrunner.com
716-681-7928

Rob & Eileen Stevic
Events
rstevic@verizon.net
716-838-1159

Julie Maciejewski
Communications
handbellgal@msn.com
716-417-1648

Diane Zwirecki
Newsletter Editor
dzwirecki
@communicatesucceed.com
716-983-2978

Welcome to the Pack!

Welcome to these greyhounds,
who are recent BGA adoptees:

Truder Claycomb
Vasco Flynn
Chloe Haloski
Jack Hammond
Cooper Keleher/Mobarek
Booker O'Keefe
Lance Piskor
Marvel Rodriguez
Romeo Senall
Kai Suitor
Myrna Wood
Anna Younker



*"I am joy in a wooly coat, come to dance into your life,
to make you laugh."
- Julie Church*

2015 Garage Sale a Success

BGA would like to extend a "greyt" big thank you to everyone who contributed to or participated in the 2015 Garage Sale. This year's sale raised more than \$2,100 to help greyhounds find their forever homes.

Special thanks to Carolyn and Larry Pillard for the use of their garage, where items have been stored since the spring.



organizing ad management of this year's sale.

We'd also like to thank:

- Friends of BGA.
- Jim and Debbie Bernsdorf, who provided their trailer to move and unload items.
- Irene and Gary Wood, Debbie Bersndorf, and Carolyn and Larry Pillard, who worked every day at the sale.
- Ken Kluck for his sincere, cheerful and capable hosting,



Mark Your Calendar For September 27



Picnic

BGA will hold its annual picnic at Como Park, Lancaster, on Sunday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a dish to share, as well as your own non-alcoholic beverages ... and of course, your dog! Sandwiches will be provided. To RSVP or more information, contact Mike Maciejewski at (716) 517-5588 or mrmski@msn.com.

Next BGA Bubble Bath is November 1



Buffalo Greyhound Adoption's next Bubble Bath is set for Sunday, November 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Camp Bow Wow, 31 North America Drive, West Seneca, 14224. Cost is just \$15 for a full "spa treatment."

For reservations, contact Sue Murzynski at 716-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol.com.

Farewell My Friend ...

Saphire (Feel That Fire) Burgio

Nuby (I Guarantee It) Cotton

Shamus (Blackie) Drescher

Teddy (Forex Sands) Flynn

Colin (AW Quagmire) Galuszka

Venetian (Cafe Europa) Maxim

Jake (Kiowa Ingle) Prince

Ani (Bailey's Dodi)
Spangler/Bauer

Wholesale (Sale) Zwirecki

Editor's Note:

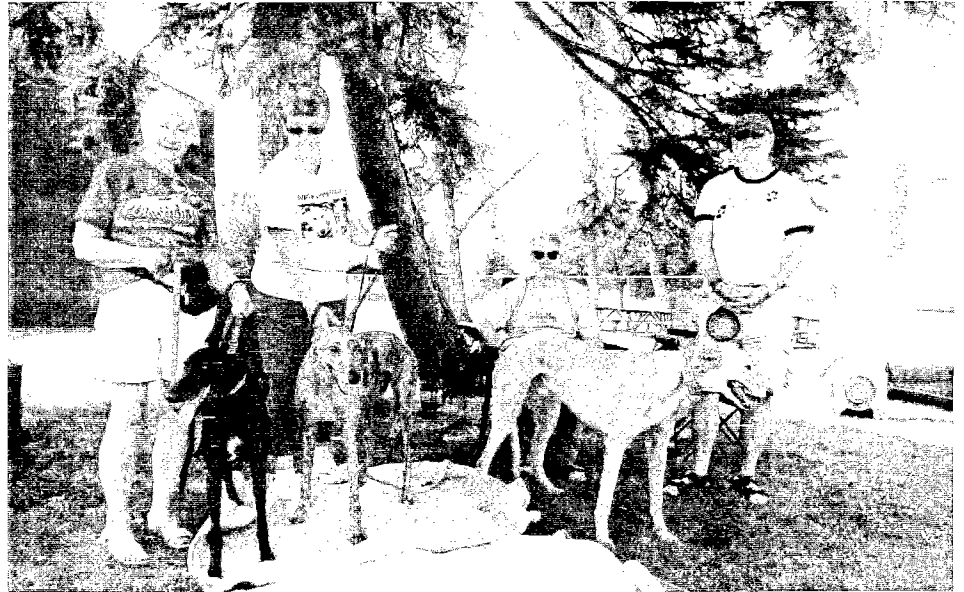
This issue of "Off Track Pets" is bittersweet. As I prepare it to go to press, I mourn the loss of my "greytest" friend, Wholesale, who was so much a part of our lives for the past nearly eight years. My husband is in sales, so even the name was a natural. We called him Sale - but he was worth every penny. I would have gladly paid full price!

Sale had many greyhound cousins and friends, each one unique, fun and memorable. He was almost 13. He was Racer of the Year at the track in Iowa.

Today, he runs free.

Farewell, my friend.

BGA Meet & Greet At Cheektowaga Town Park



Buffalo Greyhound Adoption recently held a Meet & Greet at Cheektowaga Town Park. Pictured from left are Irene Wood with Myrna, Carolyn Pillard with JJ, Rob Stevic with Eddie, and Gary Wood.

MEAT RAFFLE

to benefit

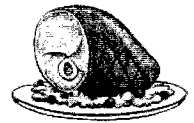
Buffalo Greyhound Adoption

Saturday, November 14

6 PM: Doors Open - 7 PM: First Spin

Leonard Post VFW #6251

2450 Walden Avenue (@ Nagel Drive), Cheektowaga



Admission \$5

Includes beer, wine, pop and door prizes. Pizza available for purchase.

Bring your dollar bills for chances to win chicken, sausage, ribs, steaks, turkeys, seafood and more! Two 50/50 drawings will be held, along with raffles for a freezer full of meat and a basket of cheer!

Pre-sale tickets may be purchased by calling Carolann at (716) 883-4482 by Sunday, November 1. Table reservations are required for groups of eight or more. Attendance limited to 300!

Lost Greyhound Pager: 888-615-7340

Please take a moment to save the Buffalo Greyhound Adoption Lost Dog Pager number on your phone. Enter your phone number followed by the # sign. BGA will immediately dispatch a search team to help you out. Volunteers are needed to be a part of this group. Please send your cell phone number (for texting purposes) and/or email address to beabgavolunteer@gmail.com if you can help.

BGA Meet & Greets Coming Up

Williamsville Farmer's Market

Saturday, September 12 - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First Saturday of the month:

McKinley Mall, Hamburg, 1 to 4 p.m.

Contact suehappytails@aol.com.

Second Saturday of the month:

Pet Supplies Plus, Niagara Falls Blvd. @ East Robinson Rd., Amherst
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Contact tarashorty@yahoo.com.

Fourth Saturday of the month:

Walden Galleria Mall, Cheektowaga, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Contact mrmski@msn.com.

From the President (cont'd from page 1)

Erie County Fair time, and BGA once again participated in this annual rite of summer. We had to scramble looking for volunteers to attend and man our booth, and our growing core of people was up to the task. It's always a pleasure to see new people and new dogs at the fair.

Since Julie and I have become active members of this group, we've gotten to know many of the people in the organization. When people get together for a common cause, like our love of our "greyt" companions, we tend to feel a bond, almost like an extension of family. Like others in our group, we've personally had some trying times lately, and it's always nice to see someone from the group show up and prove that this bond really does exist. Thanks to you all, and until next time, "hounds to you."



Meet & Greets (cont'd from page 2)

come you to join us at any one of the remaining BGA events and at our ongoing Meet & Greets at the Galleria and McKinley Malls and Pet Supplies Plus in Tonawanda. It's a wonderful opportunity for your hound to interact with the public and with other hounds. You can stay for as short or long a time as you want - you do not need to stay the entire time, especially if it's a new experience for you both.

If you would like more information about upcoming events or Meet & Greets, feel free to email us (Bob and Eileen, your Event Co-Chairs) at rstevic@verizon.net. Looking forward to seeing you and your hounds!



Update Your BGA 5 Membership

If you'd like to become a voting member of Buffalo Greyhound Adoption or have not recently updated your membership information, please notify BGA at your earliest convenience.

To become a voting member, apply on line at the BGA web site or contact us at buffalogreyhoundinfo@gmail.com. Membership enables you to vote in BGA elections, run for office, and attend our Annual Meeting.

We welcome new active members. Please consider getting involved! To volunteer for BGA, contact beabgavolunteer@gmail.com.

Foster Homes Needed

As greyhounds continue to arrive in Western New York, foster homes are needed as they await permanent placement.

Can you help? Fostering is a "greyt" experience and a key step in ensuring the best possible homes for our new pets.

To learn more or get involved in fostering, please contact **Sue Murzynski**, 716-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol.com.

Do You Have a "Greyt" Story to Tell?

Please submit your stories or photos for possible use in the Winter 2015 issue of *Off Track Pets* to Diane Zwirecki by **Monday, December 7**.

Contact Diane at 716-983-2978 or dzwirecki@communicatesucceed.com.

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, Inc.

PO Box 1096
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

716-873-1165

buffalogreyhoundinfo@gmail.com

www.b-g-a.org

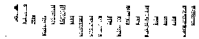
NON-PROFIT

U.S. Postage

PAID

Buffalo, NY

Permit 4248



So Many Ways to Support BGA ...

If you'd like to get involved in supporting Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, get to know fellow hound lovers and make some 'greyt' new friends – your time, talent and skills are needed to help keep BGA strong.

The BGA lottery and other fund-raising activities help keep adoption costs low and further our mission of placing dogs in their forever homes. Please consider volunteering for an event.

Among the efforts you can become involved in are Meet & Greets (see page 5) and lottery ticket sales. The cost of each lottery ticket is \$5. Prizes are

\$25 per weekday and \$50 on weekends. If you would like to purchase or sell tickets, contact **Dave Heckmiller** at theheckmillers@aol.com.

For just \$1, you can purchase mouth-watering Niagara Candy bars in a variety of flavors including milk and dark chocolate, mint, peanut butter, almond and more. BGA receives 100 percent of the proceeds.

For more information on buying and/or selling Niagara Candy, contact **Laurie Graziano** at grazialm@buffalostate.edu or 716-636-0971.

BGA also accepts donations of greyhound muzzles for use with new dogs as they are transported in from tracks across the country, and bags of Purina One Lamb & Rice food.



If you are interested in helping with trans-

porting greys from tracks to Buffalo, contact **Sue Murzynski** at 716-655-0819 or suehappy-tails@aol.com.